Appl. No. 09/849,555
Atty. Docket No. 8325
Amdt. dated 6/15/2004
Reply to Office Action of 3/30/04
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for ~~improved~~ cleaning ~~of~~ fabrics within one apparatus comprising the steps of:
    a.   applying an aqueous vapor to ~~exposing~~ said fabrics ~~to an aqueous vapor~~, in an amount at least about 0.5% but less than or equal to about 50% by weight of said fabrics;
    b.   applying a lipophilic fluid to ~~exposing~~ said fabrics ~~to a lipophilic fluid~~; and
    c.   extracting at least a portion of said lipophilic fluid.

2.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor is applied in an amount of at least about 5% by weight of said fabrics.

3.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor is applied in an amount of less than or equal to about 15% by weight of said fabrics.

4.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor is pulsed during said Step "a".

5.   (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein said pulse continues for at least about 5 seconds.

6.   (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein said pulse continues for at most about 30 seconds.

7.   (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein a time interval separates each of said pulses.

8.   (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein said time interval is at least about 2 seconds.

9.   (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein said time interval is at most about 20 seconds.

10.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said Step "a" occurs after said Step "b".

11.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said Step "a" <u>occurs</u> during <u>or</u> after said Step "c".

12.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said Step "a" occurs after said Step "c".

13.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 <u>additionally</u> comprising ~~the additional step of exposing~~ <u>applying a surfactant to</u> said fabrics ~~to a surfactant~~.

14.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 <u>additionally</u> comprising ~~the additional step of exposing~~ <u>applying an emulsifier to</u> said fabrics ~~to an emulsifier~~.

15.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises <u>a member selected from the group consisting of</u> a linear siloxane, a cyclic siloxane, ~~or~~ <u>and</u> mixtures thereof.

16.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises a lipophilic fluid selected from the group consisting of octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, decamethylcyclopentasiloxane, dodecamethylcyclohexasiloxane, and mixtures thereof.

17.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises decamethylcyclopentasiloxane.

18.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises an emulsifier.

19.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises a surfactant.

20.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid is at a temperature from about 10°C to about 100°C.

21.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises an emulsifier.

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22.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises a surfactant.

23.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor is at a temperature from about 10°C to about 120°C.

24.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises wet steam.

25.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises cold steam.

26.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises droplets of less than about 1 millimeter in size.

27.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises droplets of less than about 250 microns in size.

28.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises droplets of less than about 100 microns in size.

29.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the entire method occurs within a cleaning chamber.

30.   (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said extracting comprises spinning said fabrics and said lipophilic fluid.

31.   (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said extracting comprises wringing said fabrics.

32.   (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said extracting comprises evaporating at least a portion of said lipophilic fluid.

33.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said fabrics are also exposed to an adjunct material materials selected from the group consisting essentially of builders, surfactants, enzymes, bleach activators, bleach catalysts, bleach boosters, bleaches, alkalinity sources, antibacterial agents, colorants, perfumes, pro-perfumes, finishing aids, lime soap dispersants,

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composition malodor control agents, odor neutralizers, polymeric dye transfer inhibiting agents, crystal growth inhibitors, photobleaches, heavy metal ion sequestrants, anti-tarnishing agents, anti-microbial agents, anti-oxidants, anti-redeposition agents, soil release polymers, electrolytes, pH modifiers, thickeners, abrasives, divalent or trivalent ions, metal ion salts, enzyme stabilizers, corrosion inhibitors, diamines or polyamines and/or their alkoxylates, suds stabilizing polymers, solvents, process aids, fabric softening agents, optical brighteners, hydrotropes, suds or foam suppressors, suds or foam boosters, fabric softeners, antistatic agents, dye fixatives, dye abrasion inhibitors, anti-crocking agents, wrinkle reduction agents, wrinkle resistance agents, soil release polymers, soil repellency agents, sunscreen agents, sizing agents, anti-fade agents, and mixtures thereof <u>is applied to said fabrics</u>.

34.   (Currently amended) A method <u>for</u> reducing ~~and/or removing~~ wrinkles from a fabric article in need of treatment comprising the steps of:

      a.   ~~exposing the fabric article to~~ <u>applying</u> an effective amount of an aqueous vapor <u>to the fabric article</u> such that wrinkles in the fabric article are reduced ~~and/or removed~~; and

      b.   exposing the fabric article to a lipophilic fluid.

35.   (Original) The method according to Claim 34 wherein said method further comprises the step of:

      c.   removing at least a portion of the lipophilic fluid from said fabric article.

36.   (Original) The method according to Claim 34 wherein said step a. occurs prior to step b.

37.   (Original) The method according to Claim 34 wherein said aqueous vapor is at a temperature of from about 10°C to about 120°C.

38.   (Original) The method according to Claim 37 wherein said aqueous vapor is at a temperature of from about 10°C to about 60°C.

39.   (Original) The method according to Claim 34 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises an agent selected from the group consisting of wrinkle reducing agents, wrinkle resisting agents and mixtures thereof.

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40.　　(Original) The method according to Claim 34 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises an agent selected from the group consisting of wrinkle reducing agents, wrinkle resisting agents and mixtures thereof.

41.　　(Currently amended) A method for applying a perfume to a fabric article in need of treatment comprising the steps of:

    a.　~~exposing the fabric article to~~ applying an effective amount of an aqueous vapor comprising a perfume to the fabric article such that the perfume is deposited onto the fabric article; and

    b.　exposing the fabric article to a lipophilic fluid.

42.　　(Currently amended) A method for treating a fabric article, said method comprising ~~contacting~~ in the same apparatus applying to a fabric article in need of treatment ~~with~~ an aqueous vapor and a cyclic siloxane lipophilic fluid comprising at least 90% decamethylcyclopentasiloxane.

43.　　(Original) The method according to Claim 42 wherein said aqueous vapor is steam.